

# ECEAP News

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Quarterly news from the State Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program



## Taking Time to Acknowledge our Accomplishments!

Many times, we pass through our successes too quickly, not pausing long enough to truly savor them before moving on to the next thing. As you begin providing services this fall, consider incorporating ECEAP's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a way of celebrating your successes. It's a challenging thing to do in the midst of enrolling children, meeting with families, setting up classrooms, and so on, but stopping to acknowledge the work you do is also time well-spent.



While celebrating your accomplishments, seize opportunities to spread the excitement to others. There has never been a better time than now with the heightened interest around Early Learning. The Department of Early Learning has been created, Washington Learns will be recommending education reform, and the Legislature will appropriate the new biennial budget—to name a few of the things happening. Your local legislator, school superintendent, or county executive may enjoy an invitation to visit your program, and who knows where it could lead?



So, take time to recognize the important contribution your program has made to your community. We look forward to hearing about your accomplishments in the coming year!

## Transition News

July 1, ECEAP officially became part of the new Department of Early Learning. Teams from the former DSHS Division of Child Care and Early Learning, the Office of Financial Management, and CTED are still working hard to make this transition as seamless as possible.

Governor Gregoire recently announced the appointment of Jone M. Bosworth as the new DEL Director, and the Department is in the process of hiring permanent administrative staff.

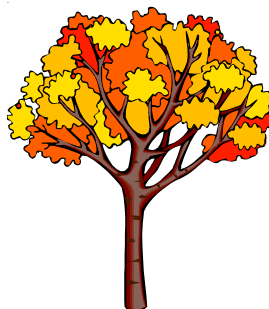
Abuilding for the new department staff was secured in Lacey, but won't be ready for occupancy until late fall. State ECEAP staff will remain in their current location until then.

The email address format for most DEL staff is [firstname.lastname@del.wa.gov](mailto:firstname.lastname@del.wa.gov). The phone and fax numbers for ECEAP will remain the same for now, as will the physical address and PO Box.

For additional updates on the progress of the new department transition, visit [www.del.wa.gov](http://www.del.wa.gov).

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*"Change is inevitable, except from vending machines."*

**-Anonymous**

# Docs For Tots Washington State

**A**t Docs For Tots we share your commitment to helping every child be healthy and ready for success in school and life. Research tells us what kids need to thrive, yet far too many children and families do not have the information and resources they need to ensure a good start in life. We believe that physician involvement in advocacy will make a real difference for children birth to five. Docs For Tots is interested in issues affecting all aspects of young children's health and development including, but not limited to: Access to Health Care and Medical Homes; Social and Emotional Development and Mental Health; Early Education and Child Care; Parenting Information; Family Support; Foster Care, and Poverty.

**Docs For Tots Washington State is a growing network of doctors who advocate for young children.** Through the *Washington State Early Learning Advocacy Project*, we collaborate with public and private partners to increase doctors' awareness about and involvement in efforts to enhance early learning opportunities for children and families in Washington State. We believe doctors can help in many ways, such as by:

- Making the connection between health and early learning.
- Sharing stories about children and families.
- Testifying at public and legislative hearings.
- Writing op-ed pieces or letters to the editor.
- Facilitating roundtable discussions on policy and children's development.
- Presenting at staff/program meetings, conferences, and community forums.

## About Docs For Tots

Doc For Tots is a non-profit, nonpartisan advocacy organization founded in 2003 to encourage more doctors to fulfill their important role as active advocates for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers on the national, state, and local level. We are committed to making it as simple as possible for doctors to become involved in advocacy. The *mission* of Docs

For Tots is to develop, support, and grow a nationwide network of doctors able to partner with child advocacy organizations and others who seek doctor involvement in promoting policies and practices that will improve the health and development of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

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**Doctors Advocating for  
Young Children**

**Docs For Tots is here to  
support your efforts!**

Docs For Tots provides doctors with advocacy information and resources, connecting them with organizations and efforts that want to engage doctors. Please explore our website at [www.docsfortots.org](http://www.docsfortots.org), and contact us with your requests to match a local doctor with your effort. We welcome your ideas about how to engage and support docs in early childhood advocacy. Please encourage doctors you know to join!

# Save the Dates!!!

## 2-Day DECA Basic Implementation Training

The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) is a strength-based assessment and planning system to promote resilience and social-emotional skills in children aged two-to-five. To learn more, see [www.devereuxearlychildhood.org/about/about-deca.html](http://www.devereuxearlychildhood.org/about/about-deca.html). This training provides participants with knowledge and skills to implement the five steps of the DECA Program. It is useful for early childhood teachers, assistants, education coordinators, family support workers, mental health providers, supervisors, and other early education professionals.



Pasco, Oct. 4-5  
Olympia, Oct. 16-17  
Everett, Oct. 18-19  
Time: 8:30 - 4:30  
Free for ECEAP, \$125 for non-ECEAP  
\$100 no-show fee for everyone  
Registration materials are at [www.del.wa.gov/eceap](http://www.del.wa.gov/eceap).

## DECA 4-Hour Classroom Strategies Training

This follow-up training, for people familiar with DECA, will deepen your understanding of using DECA to plan classroom strategies and meet the needs of individual children.

Pasco, Oct. 6, 9:30 - 2:30  
Tri-Cities, Oct. 6, 8:00 - 12:00 (WSMC staff only)  
PSESD, Nov. 17, 11:00 - 3:00 (PSESD staff only)  
Everett, Nov. 17, 9:00 - 2:00  
Olympia, Dec. 1, 9:00 - 2:00  
Free for ECEAP, \$30 for non-ECEAP  
\$25 no-show fee for everyone  
Registration materials are at [www.del.wa.gov/eceap](http://www.del.wa.gov/eceap), except Migrant Council and PSESD staff register with their own agencies.

## Training Sponsored by the State ECEAP Office

### Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)

CLASS is an observation instrument developed to assess classroom quality in preschool through third grade classrooms. CLASS assesses the quality of social and instructional interactions between teachers and children in the classroom and evidence of intentionality and productivity. It is useful for mentoring teachers and assisting in their professional development. It is used by several states to systematically evaluate and improve the quality of preschool classrooms. Anyone who supervises, supports, trains, or mentors classroom staff would benefit from this intensive training.

Western Washington, Feb. 1-2  
Eastern Washington, Feb. 8-9  
Free for ECEAP, \$125 for non-ECEAP  
\$100 no-show fee for everyone  
*Registration will open in December.*



## BFNEP Fall Training November 1-2 Dumas Bay Center in Federal Way

It's that time of year again for **FEAST** and **CHOW** training! And this year, we have a new option, too — **CHOMP** School-to-Home Activity Kits!

Fall training happens just once this year, so make sure to calendar the dates. Staff and parents can look forward to a fun-filled training November 1st that offers something for everyone, whether you've participated in the Basic Food Nutrition Education Program before or not. A half-day session on November 2nd is for fiscal and administrative staff. Educational materials will be distributed at the training, and there is some new information to share, too. *Watch for details in September!*

# cool tools & quicklinks

## CELEBRATE! An Anti-Bias Guide to Enjoying Holidays in Early Childhood Programs



Holidays are an important part of almost every culture. Halloween, Thanksgiving, Rosh Hashanah, Dia de Los Muertos, Kwanzaa, St. Patrick's Day, Bon Odori, the list is endless. How do we meet the needs of individual families, address diversity, avoid stereotypes, and still honor the cultural significance of our holidays?

These and other questions are addressed in [CELEBRATE! An Anti-Bias Guide to Enjoying Holidays in Early Childhood Programs](#). Author Julie Bisson offers strategies for developing culturally appropriate holiday activities while avoiding "tourist curriculum." With a preface by Louise Derman-Sparks, this book takes on the holiday question with insight and creativity.

1997, Red Leaf Press

### *Parent Perspectives Quotes on Holidays from Beth Blue Swadener*

**Hmong parent:** *My daughter was asked to make and wear a scary mask at Halloween. In our culture, masks are never worn by anyone except the Shaman, and this frightened our daughter very much.*

**Islamic Parent:** *My child's school has many christian holiday-based activities, and has never even recognized that any of the students there are non-christian.*

**Father:** *Ever since my wife died two years ago, Mother's Day has been a very hard day for my daughter. When her teacher tells the class that everyone is going to make a card for their mother, she bursts into tears.*

**Native American Parent:** *I often wish that November weren't even on the calendar. For many of us in the American Indian community, Thanksgiving is a national day of mourning.*

## The Ongoing Debate about Academics

*Should we be focusing on play-based learning and/or direct instruction . . . and why?*

Child development professor David Elkind puts his thoughts about how preschool-age children learn into an article at [www.educationnext.org/20012/8elkind.html](http://www.educationnext.org/20012/8elkind.html). The article is followed by a rebuttal by Grover J. Whitehurst, Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education.

## Preschool in Europe

*Are you curious about how early learning is structured in other countries?*

Read a personal perspective on preschool in France at [www.journal.naeyc.org/btj/200409/hurless.asp](http://www.journal.naeyc.org/btj/200409/hurless.asp).

Read about the changing curriculum for early childhood education in England at [ecrp.uiuc.edu/v4n2/kwon.html](http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v4n2/kwon.html).

## Reducing Screen Time

*Want more resources for limiting screen time and encouraging physical activity in child care and homes?*

Washington Active Bodies Active Minds: [www.waabam.org](http://www.waabam.org) has resources for early childhood professionals, such as ClickIt: To Reduce Television in Early Childhood. You'll find a training for child care staff called "Making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice," plus much more!

Brought to you by the Washington State Department of Health and the University of Washington Center for Public Health Nutrition.

# ECEAP Stars!

## Kim Kotlan - Truly an ECEAP Star!

Kim Kotlan has been a Family Services Coordinator with Community Colleges of Spokane ECEAP for 16 years. Kim graduated from Eastern Washington University in 1991 and worked for a short time with the homeless in the Spokane area and Head Start before starting her career with ECEAP in 1992. Working at Trent Elementary in the Spokane Valley School District, she is a natural leader admired by others in the local ECEAP programs. Kim works closely with her families and goes the extra mile supporting them. She has strong ties in the community and links her families with needed services. Kim is always there to provide a helping hand and check in to see how things are going.

Kim and the ECEAP teachers at Trent Elementary have a wonderful, sharing relationship that benefits all the children and their parents. Kim enjoys her time in the classroom and also enjoys seeing her former kids who stop by to say "Hi." Kim is truly an 'ECEAP Star.'



### *Tell us your story!*

*We welcome submissions to feature your staff in the new profile section.*

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